

CHAPTER 8 SECTION 3.2

PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PFPWD): HEARING IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA

Issue Date: November 23, 1983

Authority: [32 CFR 199.5\(b\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

92502 - 92599

II. POLICY

A. Family members of active duty members meeting the following criteria are eligible for benefits under the Program for Persons with Disabilities. Authorization from the contractor is required.

B. Hearing Impairment: Testable Patients. A hearing impairment is a serious physical disability when, unaided by amplification, it is manifested by:

1. A hearing threshold level of 45 decibels or less in one ear **or** 30 decibels or less in both ears **as determined by audiologic function tests**; or by

2. Speech discrimination of 60% or poorer with either ear.

C. Hearing Impairment: Nontestable Patients. Where pure tone audiometry or speech discrimination testing is not available or not reliable because of the patient's age or condition, the attending physician must submit documentation which demonstrates the patient is unable to engage in basic productive activities of daily living expected of unimpaired persons of the same age group. An example of acceptable documentation would be electrophysiological tests of hearing such as auditory evoked potential testing or a behavioral assessment which shows that, without special help, an infant with a hearing impairment will not develop normal language. Each case will be reviewed on its own merits.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE October 28, 1997.

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